

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Page 5, please replace paragraph [0009] with the following amended paragraph:

B1 (2) In the polarizer defined in the item (1), preferably, moisture permeability of each of the protective films is in a range of from 5 to 300 (~~g/cm²·24h~~) (g/m²·24h) at 40°C × 90%R.H.

Page 6, please replace paragraph [0012] with the following amended paragraph:

B2 (5) In a method of producing a polarizer defined in the item (4), preferably, moisture permeability of each of the protective films is in a range of from 5 to 300 (~~g/cm²·24h~~) (g/m²·24h) at 40°C × 90%R.H.

Page 11, please replace paragraph [0025] with the following amended paragraph:

B3 As each of the transparent protective films for holding the PVA polarizing element therebetween, it is preferable to use a suitable one excellent in transparency, mechanical characteristic, thermal stability and having moisture permeability of from 5 to 300 (~~g/cm²·24h~~) (g/m²·24h) under a condition of 40°C × 90%R.H. A transparent protective film with moisture permeability of not lower than 5 (~~g/cm²·24h~~) (g/m²·24h) under a condition of 40°C × 90%R.H. can be used to provide a polarizer free from the problem that the residual moisture in the polarizing element makes optical durability deteriorate. Preferably, by using a film with moisture permeability of not higher than 300 (~~g/cm²·24h~~) (g/m²·24h) under a condition of 40°C × 90%R.H., the optical durability of the polarizer can be prevented from being lowered because of penetration of moisture from the ambient atmosphere.

Page 25, please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

B^A The present invention can provide a polarizer which uses a PVA polarizing element and which is good in reliability and excellent in durability under a high-temperature or high-humidity condition, and a method of producing the polarizer. In a preferred mode for carrying out the present invention in which protective films with moisture permeability of from 5 to 300 ~~(g/cm²·24h)~~ (g/m²·24h) under a condition of 40°C × 90%R.H are used as protective films, the quantity of the change of optical characteristic in durability can be desirably reduced compared with that in the background art.
